



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

## Veterans News

Contact: J.P. Tremblay  
Jerry Jones  
Jaime Arteaga  
Legislation and Public Affairs  
916-653-2192  
Fax 916-653-2611  
April 20, 2007



April 16, 2007

### GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF SANTA ROSA SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sgt. Jesse L. Williams of Santa Rosa, CA:

"Staff Sergeant Williams fought with everything he had to extend freedom to the oppressed. Jesse's courage and endurance has touched the lives of countless individuals, and his sacrifice will not be forgotten. Maria and I extend our sincere condolences to Jesse's family and friends."

Williams, 25, died April 8 in Balad, Iraq as a result of injuries sustained from small arms fire while conducting combat operations in Baqubah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, WA.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Williams, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



April 11, 2007

### GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF WALNUT CREEK SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. James J. Coon of Walnut Creek, CA:

"Maria and I join all Californians in extending our heartfelt condolences to Specialist Coon's family. James courageously dedicated himself to our nation's mission to spread freedom. We offer our prayers for his friends and family as they mourn this tragic loss."

Coon, 22, died April 4 as a result of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Balad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

In honor of Spc. Coon, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



Friday, April 20, 2007

#### **GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF MISSION VIEJO MARINE**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Santee of Mission Viejo, CA:

"Lance Corporal Santee strove to represent our nation with integrity and valor. Daniel's life was lost in the honorable pursuit of attaining liberty for the oppressed. Maria and I extend our deepest condolences to Daniel's family in this time of grieving."

Santee, 21, died April 14 as a result of injuries sustained from a non-hostile vehicle accident in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In honor of Lance Cpl. Santee, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



Friday, April 20, 2007

#### **GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF PARADISE SOLDIER**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Pfc. Steven J. Walberg of Paradise, CA:

"Our country's selfless soldiers put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms of all Americans. Private First Class Walberg made it his mission to secure freedom for all who seek it. Maria and I offer our thoughts and prayers for Steven's family and loved ones during this difficult time."

Walberg, 18, died April 15 in Baghdad, Iraq, as a result of injuries sustained from enemy small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

In honor of Pfc. Walberg, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



Friday, April 20, 2007

#### **GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF TWENTYNINE PALMS MARINE**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shaun M. Blue of Munster, IN:

"Maria and I offer our heartfelt condolences to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Blue's family and friends. Shaun's unfailing perseverance is an inspiration to all Californians. We offer our prayers and thoughts for this brave Marine's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time."

Blue, 25, died April 16 as a result of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

In honor of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Blue, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



Friday, April 20, 2007

#### **GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF TWENTYNINE PALMS MARINE**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Lance Cpl. Jesse D. Delatorre of Aurora, IL:

"Our brave Marines are dedicated to our nation's commitment to preserving freedom. Lance Corporal Delatorre fought for our country with courage and resolve. Maria and I offer our heartfelt condolences to Jesse's family, friends and fellow Marines during this time of mourning."

Delatorre, 29, died April 16 as a result of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

In honor of Lance Cpl. Delatorre, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



Friday, April 20, 2007

#### **Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of San Francisco Soldier**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Mario K. De Leon of San Francisco, CA:

"Sergeant De Leon bravely fought for our nation with everything he had. Mario will be remembered for his courageous determination and noble service to our country. Maria and I offer our prayers for Mario's family, friends and fellow soldiers."

De Leon, 26, died April 16 in Baghdad, Iraq, as a result of injuries sustained from enemy small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

In honor of Sgt. De Leon, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

our website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) and via e-mail from [jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov).